



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1875 Century Boulevard
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

JUN - 7 2001

In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R4/ES

Eric R. Glitzenstein
Meyer & Glitzenstein
Suite 700
1601 Connecticut Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009-1035

Virginia S. Albrecht
Robert L. Gulley
Hunton & Williams
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006-1109

Interested Parties:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you, in accordance with paragraph 4.C. of our settlement agreement, that the Fish and Wildlife Service intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement regarding the promulgation of incidental take regulations for the Florida manatee, pursuant to section 101(a)(5(A) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act. It is our view that the promulgation of incidental take regulations meets the definition of a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, as described in the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500 - 1508).

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Delores Young at 404/331-3384, extension 232.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam D. Hamilton", is written over a horizontal line.

Sam D. Hamilton
Regional Director